

Message Text

PAGE 01 TOKYO 11806 01 OF 02 250835Z

10

ACTION EPA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 OES-03 SSO-00 CEQ-01 /014 W

----- 059662

O 250743Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2735

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 TOKYO 11806

PASS TO EPA

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, JA, US

SUBJ: INFORMATION ON PCB USE IN JAPAN

REF: STATE 197357

1. EMBOFFS MET WITH SIX OFFICIAL SOF GOJ ENVIRONMENT AGENCY'S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION AND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT DIVISION FOR TWO HOURS ON AUGUST 21 IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON PCB. OFFICIALS GIVE FULLEST COOPERATION AND PROVIDED CONSIDERABLE BREADTH OF INFORMATION ON VERY SHORT NOTICE IN SPITE OF STRONG GOJ PREFERENCE FOR LONG LEAD TIME IN PREPARING OFFICIAL INFORMATION FOR FOREIGN GOVERNMENT. INFORMATION ALSO CULLED FROM REPORTS IN EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICE FILES, MUCH OF WHICH FORWARDED IN PAST TO WASHINGTON. JAPAN ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY (MONTHLY) AND QUALITY OF ENVIRONMENT IN JAPAN (YEARLY), BOTH ENVIRONMENT AGENCY PULICATIONS, PROVIDE GOOD OVERVIEW OF SUBJECT. EPA MAY WISH TO REFER TO THESE DOCUMENTS. FOLLOWING INFORMATION KEYED TO PARAGRAPH NUMBERS IN REFTEL.

2. PCB HAS BEEN UNDER GOJ REGULATION SINCE 1972 WHEN KANEMI RICE BRAN OIL CASE (WHICH INVOLVED LEAKAGE OF PCB COOLANT INTO OIL) BROUGHT TO PUBLIC ATTENTION. ONLY TWO COMPANIES IN JAPAN WHICH HAD BEEN PRODUCING PCB (MITSUBISHI MONSANTO CHAMEICAL CO. AND KANEGAFUCHI CHEMICAL INDUSTRY LTD.) STOPPED PRODUCTION IN 1972 (MITSUBISHI IN MARCH AND KANEGAFUCHI IN JUNE) AND BOTH COMPANIES SUSPENDED SALES IN JUNE, 1972. THERE HAS BEEN PRACTICALLY NO PRODUCTION SINCE THAT TIME. ONLY EXCEPTION CITED WAS TRANSFORMERS FOR SHINKANSEN ("BULLET TRAIN") WHICH CONTINUED IN PRODUCTION UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1973, AT WHICH TIME THIS PRODUCTION ALSO HALTED. RAILROAD TRANSFORMERS AND CONDENSERS PRE-

PAGE 02 TOKYO 11806 01 OF 02 250835Z

TION, IMPORT OR EXPORT OF PCB IN JAPAN SINCE THAT TIME. ONLY EXCEPTION CITED WAS TRANSFORMERS FOR SHINKANSEN ("BULLET TRAIN") WHICH CONTINUED IN PRODUCTION UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1973, AT WHICH TIME THIS PRODUCTION ALSO HALTED. RAILROAD TRANSFORMERS AND CONDENSERS PRE-

SENTLY IN STOCK WHICH UTILIZE PCB ARE STILL ALLOWED TO BE USED BUT NO NEW EQUIPMENT WITH PCB IS PERMITTED. EVEN THIS LIMITED USE SUBJECT TO RESTRICTION THAT NO DISCHARGE OF PCB TO ENVIRONMENT MAY OCCUR. IMPORT OF EQUIPMENT USING PCB ALSO VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED AS OF SEPTEMBER 1972 AND FOR THOSE FEW ITEMS PERMITTED ENTRY AFTER THAT DATE IMPORTERS DIRECTED TO COOPERATE WITH ULTIMATE USER IN RECOVERING AND DISPOSING OF THE CONCERNED PARTS WHEN THE ITEMS ARE VENTUALLY DISCARDED. JAPAN EXPORTING NO PCB. PRESENT PROHIBITION OF USE, IMPORT AND EXPORT OF PCB BASED ON ARTICLE 3 OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES CONTROL LAW WHICH WENT INTO EFFECT JUNE 10, 1974. SHOULD ANY MANUFACTURER WISH TO PRODUCE PCB OR OTHER "SPECIAL CHEMICAL STANCES" IN FUTURE (SITUATION WHICH GOJ OFFICIALS FOUND ENTIRELY UNLKIELY IN CASE OF PCB) APPLICATION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE UNDER SAME LAW, ARTICLE 6, TO MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI). WATER QUALITY CONTROL LAW, ARTICLE 15, REQUIRES EACH PREFECTURE TO MONITOR WATER AND BOTTOM SEDIMENT FOR PCB DISCHARGE. SAME LAW WILL PROHIBIT USED PAPER FACTORIES FROM ACCEPTING PCB-CONTAMINATED PAPER (SUCH AS CARBON-LESS COPY PAPER) BEGINNING IN 1976. SUCH FACTORIES WILL BE REQUIRED TO BUILD TREATMENT PLANTS WHICH WILL MEET GENERAL WATER DISCHARGE STANDARDS. NO TIME LIMIT ON PRESENT LAWS AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING BAN ON PCB. TOTAL BAN ON PCB WILL TAKE EFFECT WHEN EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY IN USE WHICH UTILIZES PCB EVENTUALLY DISPOSED OF. GOJ OFFICIALS ESTIMATE THIS SITUATION WILL OCCUR IN 6 TO 10 YEARS.

3. SEE ANSWER QUESTION 2.

4. OVERALL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PCB BAN DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE BUT LARGEST IMPACT ON PAPER USING INDUSTRIES. ON RELATED ECONOMIC POINT; GOJ HAS DECIDED TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FISHERIES DAMAGED DUE TO PCB POLLUTION ON A LEVEL WITH THAT PROVIDED FOR DAMAGE DUE TO MERCURY POLLUTION. LOANS FOR MERCUTY POLLUTION BY END OF 1973 AMOUNTED TO 16.5 BILLION YEN (APPROX. \$55 MILLION) FOR FISHERIES, 8.1 BILLION YEN (APPROX. \$27 MILLION) FOR FISH DEALERS AND OTHER. LONG-TERM LOW INTEREST FINANCING FOR SPECIAL CASES OF TUNA FISHERIES AND YOUNG YELLOWTAIL BREEDERS BY JANUARY 1974 AMOUNTED TO 7.4 BILLION YEN (APPROX. \$24.7 MILLION).
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TOKYO 11806 01 OF 02 250835Z

FOLLOWING SUBSTITUTES FOR PCB HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED:

FOR CARBON-LESS CARBON PAPER

ALKYL NAPHTHALENE

ALKYL PHENYLETHANE

FOR HEAT TRANSFER

DIPHENYL

DIPHENYLETHER

ALKYL DIPHENYL

ALKYL NAPHTHALENE

ALKYL BENZENE

MAINERAL OIL

FOR TRANSFORMERS AND CAPACITORS

MINERAL OIL

SILICONE OIL

SUBSTITUTE MATERIALS CURRENTLY IN USE. SOME EVALUATION OF TOXICITY
OR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT HAS BEEN PERFORMED ON CERTAIN OR THESE BUT
FULL STUDY NOT YET DONE NOR PLANNED.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TOKYO 11806 02 OF 02 251004Z

10

ACTION EPA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 OES-03 CEQ-01 SSO-00 /014 W

----- 060355

O 250743Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2736

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FINAL SECTION OF 2 TOKYO 11806

5. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY OFFICIALS UNABLE TO RESPOND.

6. CURRENT APPROVED LEVELS FOR PCB ARE AS FOLLOWS: BASIC LIMITATION
IS FOR HUMAN INTAKE, NOT TO EXCEED 5 MICROGRAMS PER KILOGRAM OF
BODY WEIGHT PER DAY. USING AVERAGE FOOD CONSUMPTION PATTERNS, DERIV-
ATIVE CONTAMINATION LIMIT FOR FISH AND SHELLFISH IS 3 PPM FOR NEAR
SHORE VARIETIES AND 0.5 PPM FOR OCEAN VARIETIES. THESE LIMITS
ESTABLISHED THROUGH MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE "NOTIFICATION."
GOJ SOURCES KNEW OF NO PENALTY TO ENHANCE ENFORCEMENT OF THESE
STANDARDS. 1973 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY GUIDELINES FOR WATER QUALITY
WERE 0.01 PPM AND FOR BOTTOM SEDIMENT 100 PPM. IN FEBRUARY 1975,
THESE GUIDELINES WERE STRENGTHENED TO "NOT DETECTABLE" (LESS
THAN 0.5 PPB) ON ENVIRONMENTAL WATER AND 10 PPM FOR BOTTOM SED-
IMENT. BOTH THESE REVISED STANDARDS SET WITH PRESENTLY AVAILABLE
DETECTION TECHNOLOGY IN MIND BUT NOT NECESSARILY AS PERMANENT
STANDARD. MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE PCB CONCENTRATION IN EFFLUENTS AT
POINT OF DISCHARGE INTO RIVERS OR LAKES IS 3 PPM. THESE PCB WATER
STANDARDS SET FORTH IN A PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ORDINANCE WHICH
IN TURN BASED ON ARTICLE 3 OF WATER QUALITY CONTROL LAW. NINE SUB-
STANCES CURRENTLY REGULATED UNDER THIS LAW WHICH PROVIDES FOR
PENALTY FOR EXCEEDING AUTHORIZED LIMITS. WITH RESTRICTION OF PCB,
ENVIRONMENTAL LEVELS OF PCB HAVE SUBSIDED AND GOJ OFFICIALS EXPECT
DOWNWARD TREND TO CONTINUE. INTERAGENCY STUDY CONDUCTED JULY 1973
TO MARCH 1974 (PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 1974) REVEALED FOLLOWING POLLU-
TION LEVELS AND TRENDS:

A) TESTS ON FISH/SHELLFISH SHOWED 11 OF 20 WATER AREAS MORE
POLLUTED THAN ALLOWED UNDER CURRENT STANDARDS.

B) WATER ASSAYS IN AREAS WHERE PREVIOUS SURVEYS HAD SHOWN 1 PPM
OR HIGHER CONCENTRATION SHOWED 4.3 PERCENT OF SAMPLES AT LEVELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TOKYO 11806 02 OF 02 251004Z

HIGHER THAN 0.0005 PPM (LOWEST LEVEL POSSIBLE TO MEASURE WITH PRE-SENT EQUIPMENT). BOTH NUMBER OF CONTAMINATED SAMPLES AND PCB CONCENTRATIONS WERE DOWN FROM PREVIOUS TESTS.

C) IN BOTTOM SEDIMENT, OF TOTAL 1789 SAMPLES, 14 SAMPLES HAD PCB CONCENTRATIONS OF OVER 50 PPM, 37 SAMPLES HAD CONCENTRATIONS OF 10 TO 50 PPM, AND 21 SAMPLES HAD CONCENTRATIONS OF 5 TO 10 PPM. IN PREVIOUS YEAR SURVEY SOME PCB LEVELS HAD TOPPED 10,000 PPM. NO SUCH PEAKS WERE FOUND IN 1974 SURVEY.

D) SOIL AND FARM PRODUCTS SAMPLES REVEALED "GREAT MAJORITY" OF PCB CONCENTRATIONS IN SOIL BELOW 0.1 PPM, ALTHOUGH SOME CONCENTRATIONS

OF UP TO 59 PPM WERE RECORDED. FARM PRODUCTS WERE PRACTICALLY FREE OF PCB. MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE REPORT ON PCB IN MOTHER'S MILK CONDUCTED IN JULY-AUGUST, 1974 (PUBLISHED MAY 31, 1975) SHOWED CONCENTRATIONS DOWN OVER PREVIOUS TWO YEARS' FIGURES ALTHOUGH 25 PERCENT OF SAMPLES WERE CONTAMINATED IN EXCESS OF PRESCRIBED LEVEL. AVERAGE LEVEL OF 0.028 PPM (DOWN FROM 1972 LEVEL OF 0.035 PPM AND 1973 LEVEL OF 0.032 PPM). SAMPLES POLLUTED IN EXCESS OF 0.1 PPM WERE ABOUT ONE PERCENT OF TOTAL (DOWN FROM 1972 TOTAL OF 4.6 PERCENT AND 1973 LEVEL OF 3.0 PERCENT).

7. GOJ SOURCES HAD NO DATA ON HEALTH EFFECTS, ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS OR PERSISTENCE. MOTHER'S MILK STUDY CITED PARA 6. ABOVE, HOWEVER, SHOWED NO EVIDENCE OF HEALTH INJURY FROM PCB.

8. NO REGULATIONS CURRENTLY EXIST IN JAPAN FOR LABELING OR HANDLING OR PCB. DISPOSAL IS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE WASTE DISPOSAL AND PUBLIC CLEANING CONTROL LAW WHICH WAS AMENDED IN FEBRUARY 1975 TO INCLUDE PCB. COLLECTION AND TEMPORARY STORAGE OF HOUSEHOLD ELECTRIC APPLIANCES AND OTHER ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT CONTAMINATED BY PCB IS CARRIED OUT BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE ASSOCIATION FOR DISPOSAL OF PCB USED IN ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (ESTABLISHED AUGUST 1973). PCB-CONTAMINATED HOME APPLIANCES ARE SEPARATED FROM OTHER REFUSE AT THE TIME OF BULK REFUSE PICK-UP. MANUFACTURERS THEN DISMANTLE THE PCB PARTS AND PUT THEM INTO SUPERVISED STORAGE. TRANSFORMERS AND OTHER HEAVY ELECTRICAL MACHINERY ARE TO BE COLLECTED BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR DISPOSAL OF PCB BEGINNING IN 1976. THE ASSOCIATION WILL ALSO DEVELOP PCB TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY AND TREATMENT PLANTS. REGARDING SUCH TREATMENT PLANTS, GOJ SOURCES REVEALED THAT PLANT CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN SLOWED BY PUBLIC OPPOSITION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TOKYO 11806 02 OF 02 251004Z

ITION IN AREAS SELECTED FOR TREATMENT PLANTS. NO PCB IS BEING RECLAIMED FOR SECOND GENERATION USE.

9. THERE IS NO PRODUCTION, IMPORT OR EXPORT OF PCB IN JAPAN AT THIS TIME AND NONE IS CONTEMPLATED.

10. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS BEING AIR POUCHED.
HODGSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENVIRONMENT, REGULATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, IMPORTS, RESEARCH, POLLUTION, INFORMATION, CHEMICALS, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, PRODUCTION DATA, TRADE CONTROLS, ECONOMIC TRENDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO11806
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750293-0407
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750898/baaaafxk.tel
Line Count: 222
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EPA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <23 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: SENV, JA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006